FACTSHEET

ISLAMIC COOPERATION FOR A PEACEFUL FUTURE IN AFGHANISTAN (ICPFA)

Years of violence and conflicts in Afghanistan have left millions of people dead and caused the spillover with significant reinforcement of violence, particularly in Afghanistan and Pakistan that caused more innocent people to be killed. Therefore, peacemaking and peace building, as viewed by the global Islamic scholars, Imams and civil society representatives, is a civic duty and Islamic obligation in support of the people of Afghanistan and their neighbors as they are moving toward ending the current conflict via negotiation and non-violence.

The conference, which launched a two year project inside Afghanistan, has created the needed space to connect Afghan Imams and civil society leaders with the broader global efforts, experiences and lessons learned toward achieving non-violence, uplifting the human condition, and offering social and moral support to ensure human dignity and just peace. This is essential at a time when stability in Afghanistan is prerequisite for regional prosperity, and this goal can be achieved only via a mutually respected alignment toward and investment in a shared vision for peace.

Third International Conference for Islamic Cooperation for a Peaceful Future in Afghanistan

(March 4-5, 2013)

The *Third International Conference for Islamic Cooperation for a Peaceful Future in Afghanistan* will facilitate a two-day dialogue with discussion on important topics including the key principles of war and peace and their application to the current war in Afghanistan, Islam and non-violence, the role of women in a future peaceful Afghanistan, and the application of contemporary global

Islamic achievements in non-violence toward a future peace in Afghanistan. In this conference grand religious scholars and Muftis will also debate the current violence in Afghanistan in the light of Islamic teachings and jointly declare their position about it.

Below list the distinguished international leaders who will participate in the third international conference:

H.E. Dr. Mustafa Cerić - Former Grand Mufti of Bosnia, Visiting professor at the International University for Islamic Studies of Jordan and President of World Bosniak Congress

Dr. Usama Al-Abd - President of Al-Azhar University, Egypt

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Qamar - Senior Professor of Religious Studies, Al-Azhar University

Mufti Mohammed Ejaz - Chief Mufti and Qazi, India

Maulana Syed Mohammed Ashraf - Representative of All India Ulema Mashaekh Board, India

Maulana Sayed Ahmad Khizar Shah - Official Representative of Ulema Deoband, India

Professor Shakil Ahmad - Representative of Jamiat Shababe Islami, India

Dr. KH. Said Aqil Siroj, MA - General Chariman of the Nahdlatul Ulama, Indonesia

Dr. H. Marsudi Syuhud- Secretary General of the Nahdlatul Ulama, Indonesia

Sayed Yousif al-Khoei - Director of Public Affairs, Al-Khoei Foundation

Sheikh Mohammed Ahmed Al-Khalayleh - Secretary General of Al-Iftaa Department, Jordan

Sahibzada Miskeen Faiz-ur-Rehman Khan Durrani - President of Minhaj-ul-Quran International, Pakistan

Dr. Tahir Hameed - Member of Pakistani Delegation

Mohammed Sadiq Qureshi - Member of Pakistani Delegation

Syed Abdul Rahman Bukhari - Member of Pakistani Delegation

Dr. Halit Eren - Director General of IRCICA, Organisation for Islamic Cooperation, Turkey

Dr. Mustafa Çağrıcı - Former Mufti of Istanbul, Turkey

Resolution of the First International Conference for
Islamic Cooperation for a Peaceful Future in Afghanistan
(November 30- December 2, 2011)

In the name of God, the most compassionate and the most merciful

From Afghanistan and from around the globe, imams, civil society leaders, and world renown Islamic scholars have participated in "Islamic Cooperation for a Peaceful Future in Afghanistan," an unprecedented gathering of over 120 imams and scholars, from all provinces of Afghanistan and every corner of the world, which took place in Istanbul, Turkey, November 30-December 2, 2011. The conference was a non-governmental forum with impartial views toward governments and opposition groups. Participants have joined with the Afghanistan Advisory Board of The Project for Islamic Cooperation for a Peaceful Future in Afghanistan, Marmara University, in the exploration of vital themes of peace for the future of Afghanistan.

Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), an organization representing 57 nations around the world, expressed OIC's commitment to a future peaceful Afghanistan during his important address to all in attendance. The conference opening was observed by senior Turkish officials, the United States President's Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the most senior diplomats from Organization Islamic Conference (OIC) member states, including senior representatives from the embassies of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Pakistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan and Turkey.

Prominent senior scholars of the Islamic world who addressed the conference participants included Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri, the Grand Muftis of Jordan, the Grand Mufiti of Bosnia and the Grand Mufti of Istanbul, Dr. Usamah Al Abd, President of Al-Azhar University, Sheykh and Muhammad Hisham Kabbani, Kh. As'ad Said Ali, Vice Chairman of Nahdatul Ulama, Indonesia, Shaykh Muhammad Imdad Hussain Pirzada and many others listed below.

The Project's goal is to provide much-needed forums and opportunities to help generate local, regional and international Islamic cooperation in support of peace in Afghanistan. At the heart of this process has been the meeting of world famous Islamic scholars with Afghan Imams from all over Afghanistan. The Afghan Imams and the global Islamic scholars have never had the chance to meet each other in the past and inspire each other.

Inspiring teachings, guidance, and models of peacemaking and peacebuilding on key issues of the conference were presented by these great scholars. There was a creative combination and alignment with Afghan cultural and Islamic values that for the first time in decades was presented independently to a global forum of Islamic scholars. Together, they have demonstrated extraordinary courage and brilliance in the peaceful leadership and guidance of Islamic civilization.

The following are the key conclusions of the conference:

1- The global Islamic scholars, Imams, and civil society representatives expressed their deep concerns about the use of religious interpretations, often misinterpretation, in justifying violence, particularly against civilians, religious leaders, places of worship, and cultural heritage in Afghanistan and beyond. Under the guidance and Islamic texts that were narrated in the conference the global Islamic scholars, Imams and civil society representatives made a plea to all side of the conflict in Afghanistan to prevent attacks and harms to civilians.

2- The global Islamic scholars, Imams and civil society representatives articulated very clearly their commitment for a responsible and active participation in peacemaking and peacebuilding via dialogue and non-violence. They encouraged all sides of the conflict in Afghanistan to invest in peaceful settlement via negotiation.

3- The global Islamic scholars, Imams, civil society representatives recognized that there have been mistakes and shortfalls in peacebuilding in Afghanistan, and they recognized legitimate grievances, including social justice issues, that need to be addressed peacefully, not via violence.

4- The global Islamic scholars, Imams, and civil society representatives asked the Ulama and civil society within the OIC member states to take urgent steps toward supporting the peace process in Afghanistan. From this stand, they pleaded to the Ulama, Imams and civil society leaders in Afghanistan neighboring countries, particularly in Pakistan, to take more steps forward in support of peace process in Afghanistan.

5- The global Islamic scholars, together with the Afghan Imams, civil society leaders and scholars, considered their gathering, discussion and commitment for peace and non-violence, as the establishment of a historically significant point of reference for Islamic teachings to moderation, tolerance, peace and cooperation that is urgently needed in Afghanistan.

6- The alignment of global scholars via the cooperative effort established by this conference will give great strength to Afghan civil and spiritual leaders to advance the moral fiber of their communities. This will empower them to create a tolerant civic space wherein the Afghan people and their leaders can jointly march toward stability, peace and prosperity via local, regional and global cooperation and solidarity.

7- The great global Islamic scholars have admired the courage and resilience of the Afghan civil and religious leaders standing for peace and justice for their people, giving them the

advice necessary to further peace and prosperity for their communities. They offered the promise for greater Islamic cooperation for a future peaceful Afghanistan.

8- The global Islamic scholars, Afghan imams and civil society representatives viewed the conference and the project as one of the most significant steps necessary for building peace and ending violence in Afghanistan. They jointly expressed their commitment to support the upcoming forums and workshops inside Afghanistan and beyond.

The conference, which launched a two year project inside Afghanistan, has created the needed space to connect Afghan Imams and civil society leaders with the broader global efforts, experiences and lessons learned toward achieving non- violence, uplifting the human condition, and offering social and moral support to ensure human dignity and just peace. This is essential at a time when stability in Afghanistan is prerequisite for regional prosperity, and this goal can be achieved only via a mutually respected alignment toward and investment in a shared vision for peace.

Years of violence and conflicts in Afghanistan left millions of people death and caused the spillover with significant reinforcement of violence, particularly in Afghanistan and Pakistan that caused more innocent people to be killed. Therefore, peacemaking and peacebuilding, as viewed by the global Islamic scholars, Imams and civil society representatives, is a civic duty and and Islamic obligation in support of the people of Afghanistan and their neighbors as they are moving toward ending the current conflict via negotiation and non-violence.

Resolution of the Second International Conference for Islamic Cooperation for a Peaceful Future in Afghanistan (19-21 June 2012)

In the name of God, the most compassionate and the most merciful

The *Second International Conference for Islamic Cooperation for a Peaceful Future in Afghanistan* was held from June 19-21, 2012 in Kabul, Afghanistan. It brought together more than 150 prominent scholars, civil society activists and ulema from Afghanistan and neighboring states to discuss the nature of the conflict there. They also explored practical avenues of action to promote a culture of peace and non-violence in the county. This event was planned as a follow-up to the *First International Conference for Islamic Cooperation for a Peaceful Future in Afghanistan* held in Istanbul, Turkey in November 2011 in order to allow more Afghans to participate in a dialogue for peace. At that time one hundred prominent Afghan religious scholars and civil society activists met with twenty international Islamic scholars. The international participants included the Secretary General of the Organization for Islam Conference (OIC), the president of Al-Ahzar University in Cairo, the Mufti of Istanbul, and prominent members of the ulema drawn from Indonesia, Bosnia, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Jordan.

After three days of intense discussion, conference participants unanimously approved a twelve-point resolution:

1. **The people of Afghanistan are in dire need of a just and sustainable peace.** Achieving this goal requires an honest, responsible and coordinated effort by all national and international institutions, including the integrated cooperation of educational institutions, the ulema and civil society.

2. **Religious institutions have a critical role in the promotion of peace in Afghanistan.** Mosque communities, sufi orders and other spiritual circles are integral components of civil society and should be encouraged to contribute, in a coordinated and consistent manner, to a process aimed at spreading a culture of tolerance, moderation and justice. They should be discouraged from the unacceptable promotion of discrimination and prejudice of any kind.

3. **Condemn the use of any religious interpretations that attempt to justify or encourage violence.** Suicide attacks and other indiscriminate armed violence are wrong and have no legitimate foundation in Islam.

4. **Condemn any destruction of historical artifacts, attacks on holy venues and religious ceremonies as both un-Islamic and inhumane.** All sides in the conflict should immediately reject and cease such attacks.

5. **Violations of human rights, women's rights and child cruelty currently undermine the foundations of peace and stability in Afghanistan.** The ulema of the entire Muslim World and other stakeholders (including civil society institutions) should undertake effective and consistent programs to end such violence.

6. **Attacks on civilians, marketplaces and public gatherings violate both religious and international norms.** All sides in the conflict must refrain from victimizing civilians or using them as shields to attain their political objectives.

7. **The High Peace Council should reform its current membership to recruit more well respected peace builders.** If done in consultation with the representatives of the civil society organizations, such additions will to increase its effectiveness and legitimacy.

8. **Violence, discrimination and corruption all cause and perpetuate further violence and insecurity in Afghanistan.** To this end, we call on the High Peace Council to work closely with the Afghan government to end these ills as part of its mandate. We also call on the High Peace Council to oversee, in cooperation with civil society organizations, the Afghan government's efforts to ensure a sustainable peace.

9. **Promote more public debate and research at the national, regional and local level to better address the root causes of violence in Afghanistan.** Expanding the current dialogue in support of peace at all levels should be a high priority.

10. **We urge Muslim communities worldwide to fulfill their religious duty by actively and responsibly supporting Afghanistan s people in their quest to end violence and ensure peace.** As members of a common Islamic umma, they must not ignore or remain silent before the victims of violence in Afghanistan.

11. **The United Nations must act on the expression of support given by its special representative to this conference by aiding civil society s efforts to promote a culture of non-violence in Afghanistan.** We look forward to the UN's practical and timely action in this regard.

12. **The Afghan government, High Peace Council and international entities must cooperate more closely with civil society to institutionalize the culture of peace, tolerance and non-violence.** We believe individual efforts alone are insufficient for this task, but that an integrated and collaborative effort can succeed.